
Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

*Tangible Result Driver – Kevin Keith,
Chief Engineer*

MoDOT's customers have said they want smooth roads. Smoother roads mean less wear on vehicles, safer travel and greater opportunity for economic development. MoDOT will delight its customers by providing smooth and unrestricted roads and bridges. MoDOT recognizes that road projects built and maintained to a high standard of smoothness will be more efficient. MoDOT must provide customers with smooth roads – because everyone riding on a road can feel whether it is smooth or not!



Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Percent of major highways that are in good condition

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Jay Bledsoe, Transportation System Analysis Engineer

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure tracks the condition of Missouri's major highway road surfaces. The public has indicated the condition of Missouri's existing state roadway system should be one of the state's highest priorities. MoDOT places a high priority on improving the condition of state highways.

Measurement and Data Collection:

The major highway system is defined as all routes functionally classified as principal arterials. By definition, the principal arterial system provides for statewide or interstate movement of traffic. Examples include the interstate system or most U.S. routes such as U.S. 63, U.S. 54 or U.S. 36.

In urban areas, principal arterials carry traffic entering or leaving the urban area and serve movement of vehicles between central business districts and suburban residential areas. Examples include Business 50 (Missouri Blvd.) in Jefferson City, MO 740 (Stadium Blvd.) in Columbia and Route D (Page Ave.) in St. Louis.

The major roads in Missouri total approximately 5,400 centerline miles. Good condition is defined using a combination of criteria. On high-speed routes (speed limits greater than 50 mph) the International Roughness Index (IRI) is used. For lower-speed routes (mostly urban areas) where smoothness is less critical, a Present Serviceability Rating (PSR) is used. While smoothness is a factor in PSR, physical condition is also a factor.

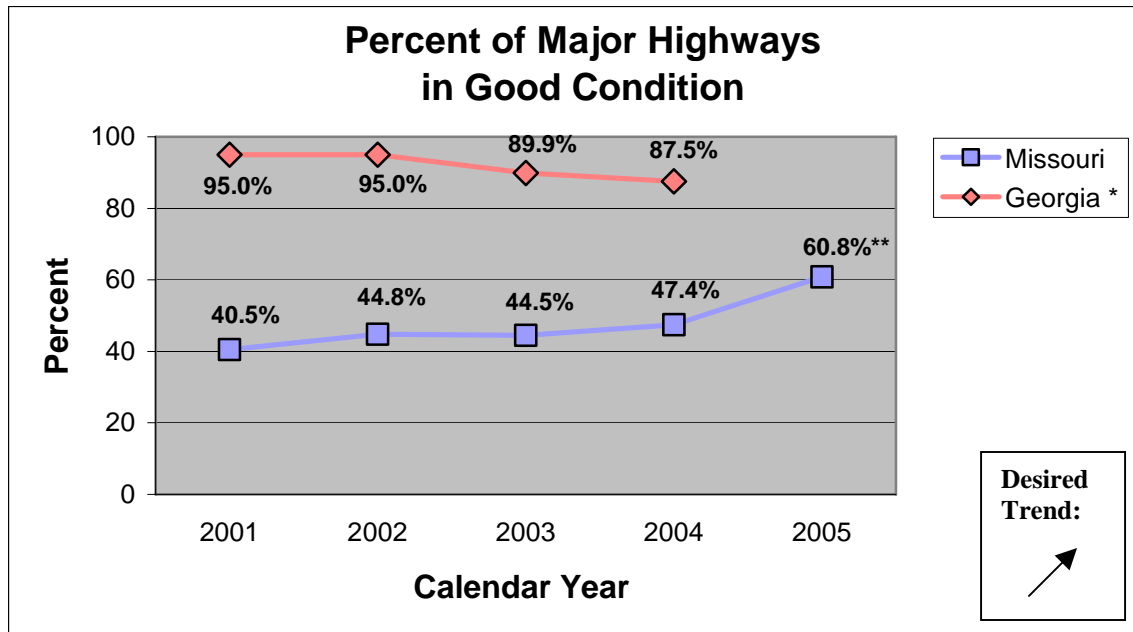
Direct comparison to other states is difficult because of differences in measurement methodologies. However, a general order-of-magnitude comparison is possible given certain assumptions. For example, there are five states that report mileage for major highways within 10 percent of that maintained by MoDOT. Of these five, Georgia, with 5,708 miles, currently has the highest percentage of these highways classified in "good" condition based on smoothness only. Georgia data is not yet published for 2005. The Missouri definition of "good" uses smoothness as one factor, but it also includes other condition factors such as physical distress to determine quality. While the comparison is not exact, it does indicate the level of performance possible on a system of Missouri's size.

Improvement Status:

A change in the criteria used to report pavement conditions has been implemented beginning with this edition of the Tracker (e.g. 2005 data). The change is intended to more closely reflect the opinions of Missourians. While the same items are measured, IRI and PSR, the threshold levels that define "good" condition have been adjusted to the levels directly developed from public surveys regarding routes of similar design and function. Work done as part of the previous long-range plan indicated that an IRI of less than or equal to 100 was always acceptable, as was a PSR index of greater than or equal to 31.

More than \$430 million per year is dedicated to taking care of the existing highway system. An additional \$359 million available from Amendment 3 (approved by Missouri voters in November 2004) will be added to this sum as part of MoDOT's Smooth Road Initiative (SRI).

Completion of the first year of the SRI has resulted in a significant improvement in pavement condition. Currently, nearly 61percent of the major highways are in good condition.



* Source data for Georgia is “Highway Statistics ” published by FHWA. Data for 2005 was not available at time of publication. Georgia data is based only on pavement smoothness (IRI) submitted as part of the Highway Performance Monitoring System.

** The data point for 2005 in Missouri is based on the revised criteria. Prior years have not been adjusted.

Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Percent of minor highways that are in good condition

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Jay Bledsoe, Transportation System Analysis Engineer

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure tracks the condition of Missouri's minor highway road surfaces. The public has indicated the condition of Missouri's existing state roadway system should be one of the state's highest priorities. MoDOT places a high priority on improving the condition of highways in the state system.

Measurement and Data Collection:

The minor highway system consists of all routes functionally classified as minor arterials or collectors. These routes mainly serve local transportation needs and include highways commonly referred to as lettered routes, such as Route A, Route C and Route DD. The public sometimes refers to these routes as farm-to-market roads. The minor roads in Missouri total approximately 27,000 centerline miles.

"Good" condition is defined using a combination of criteria. Where available, on high-speed routes (speed limits greater than 50 mph) the International Roughness Index (IRI) is used. For lower-speed routes where smoothness is less critical, a Present Serviceability Rating (PSR) or IRI is used. While smoothness is a factor in PSR, physical condition is also a factor.

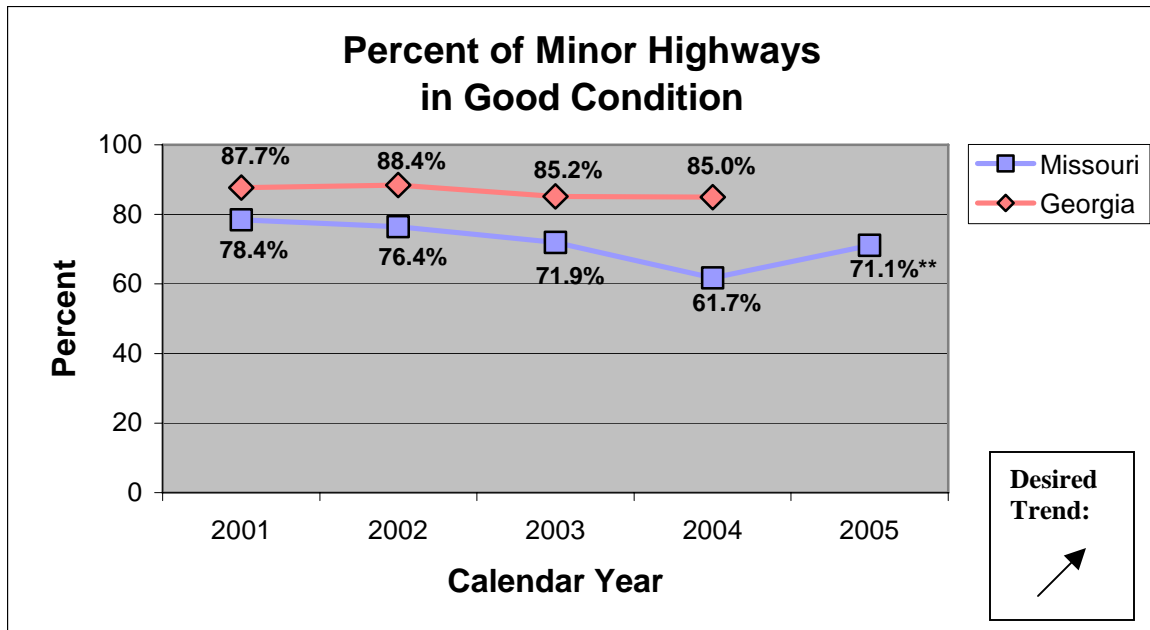
Direct comparison to other states is difficult because of differences in measurement methodologies. However, a general order-of-magnitude comparison is possible given certain assumptions. For example, there are six states that report mileage for minor highways within 10 percent of that maintained by MoDOT. Of these six, Georgia, with 24,315 miles, currently has the highest percentage of these highways classified in "good" condition. The ratings reported by states as part of the Highway Performance Monitoring System for roads classified as minor more closely relate to Missouri's rating system.

Improvement Status:

A change in the criteria used to report pavement conditions has been implemented beginning with this edition of the Tracker (i.e. 2005 data). This change is possible due to expanded data collection activities using automated methods. The change is intended to more closely reflect the opinions of Missourians. While the same items are measured, IRI and PSR, the threshold levels that define "good" condition have been adjusted to those levels directly developed from public surveys regarding routes of similar design and function. Work done as part of the previous long-range plan indicated that an IRI of less than or equal to 140 was always acceptable, as was a PSR index of greater than or equal to 31 on routes designated as minor arterials or collector. These two classifications closely reflect the minor highway system.

Pavement conditions on minor highways have shown a steady decrease in the last five years. Prior to 2005, ratings used a combination of automated methods and MoDOT district manual ratings. The 2005 results are based on a 60 percent survey by Transportation Planning staff located at the Jefferson City Central Office using automated methods. The acquisition of additional equipment in 2006 should allow virtually all state system routes to be rated annually in the future.

Federal Highway Administration allows conditions on minor highways to be reported on either IRI or PSI. PSI includes an assessment of physical distress similar to Missouri's definition. The Missouri definition of "good" uses smoothness as one factor, but it also includes other condition factors such as physical distress to determine quality.



* Source data for Georgia is “Highway Statistics” published by the Federal Highway Administration. Georgia data for 2005 was not available at time of publication. Data is based on a combination of pavement smoothness – IRI or PSR – as submitted as part of the Highway Performance Monitoring System.

** The data point for 2005 in Missouri is based on the revised criteria. Prior years have not been adjusted.

Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Percent of deficient bridges on major highways

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Jay Bledsoe, Transportation System Analysis Engineer

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure tracks progress toward improving the condition of Missouri's bridges on major highways. The public has indicated the condition of Missouri's existing roadway system should be one of the state's highest priorities. MoDOT places a high priority on increasing the quality of bridges on the state system.

Measurement and Data Collection:

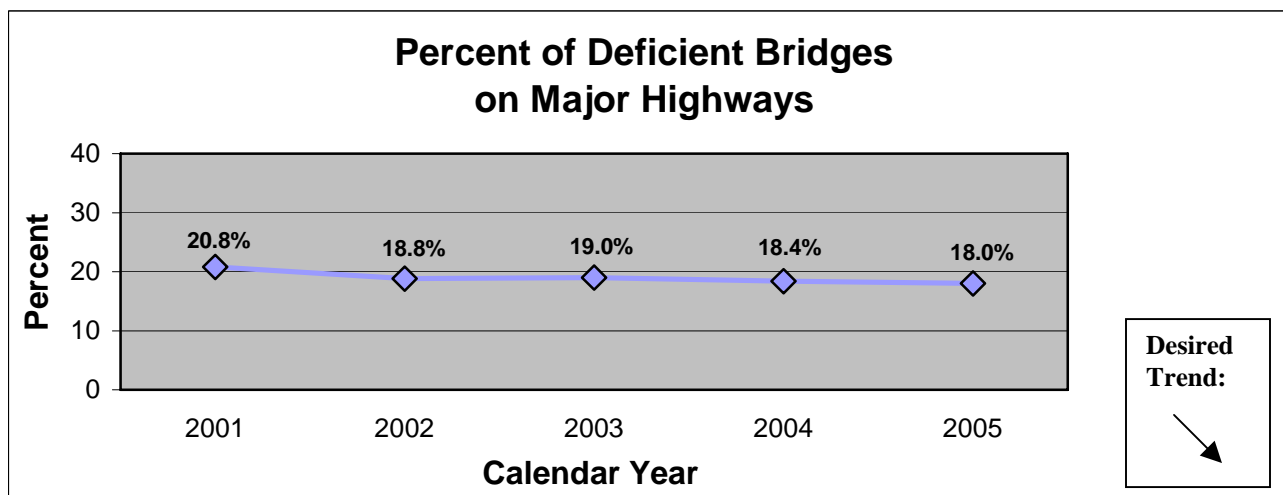
The major highway system is defined as all routes functionally classified as principal arterials. By definition, the principal arterial system provides for statewide or interstate movement of traffic. Examples include the Interstate system or most U.S. routes such as U.S. 63, U.S. 54 or U.S. 36.

In urban areas, principal arterials carry traffic entering or leaving the urban area and serve movement of vehicles between central business districts and suburban residential areas. Examples include Business 50 (Missouri Blvd.) in Jefferson City, MO 740 (Stadium Blvd.) in Columbia and Route D (Page Ave.) in St. Louis.

A bridge is considered deficient if it is either structurally deficient (SD) or functionally obsolete (FO) as defined using Federal Highway Administration criteria. A SD bridge is in poor condition or has insufficient load capacity when compared to modern design standards. A FO bridge has poor roadway alignment or has clearance or width restrictions that no longer meet the usual criteria for the system it serves. MoDOT staff inspects all state-owned bridges. There are currently 3,300 bridges on major highways.

Improvement Status:

Bridge conditions on major highways have shown a moderate improvement. The percent of deficient bridges has been reduced to 18.0 percent over the last five years as a result of increasing funds directed to taking care of the existing highway system. A minimum of \$10 million per year has been dedicated to bridge preventive maintenance activities to slow the number of bridges falling into the deficient category.



Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Percent of deficient bridges on minor highways

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Jay Bledsoe, Transportation System Analysis Engineer

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure tracks progress toward improving the condition of Missouri's minor highway bridges. The public has indicated the condition of Missouri's existing roadway system should be one of the state's highest priorities.

MoDOT places a high priority on increasing the quality of bridges on the state system.

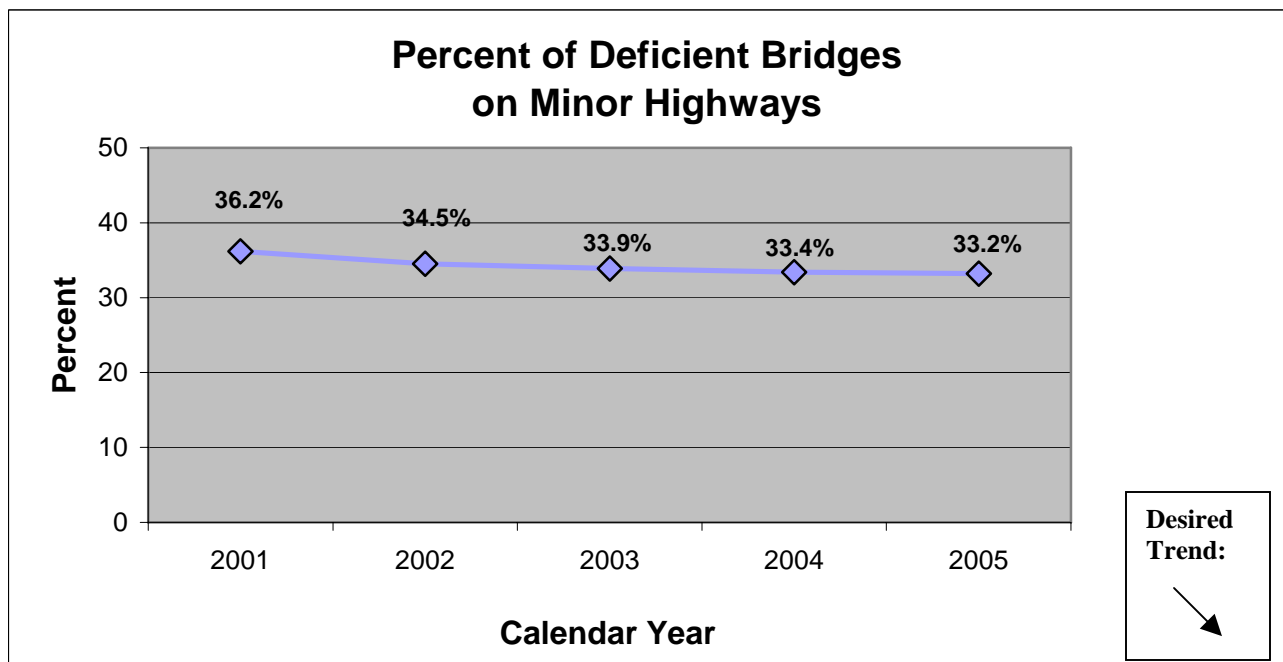
Measurement and Data Collection:

The minor highway system consists of all routes functionally classified as minor arterials or collectors. These routes serve more local transportation needs and include highways commonly referred to as lettered routes, such as Route A, Route C and Route DD. The public sometimes refers to these routes as farm-to-market roads.

A bridge is considered deficient if it is either structurally deficient (SD) or functionally obsolete (FO) as defined using Federal Highway Administration criteria. A SD bridge is in poor condition or has insufficient load capacity when compared to modern design standards. A FO bridge has poor roadway alignment, or has clearance or width restrictions that no longer meet the usual criteria for the system it serves. MoDOT staff inspects all state-owned bridges. There are currently 6,924 bridges on minor highways.

Improvement Status:

Bridge conditions on minor highways have shown a moderate improvement. The percent of deficient bridges has been reduced to 33.2 percent over the last five years as a result of increasing funds directed to taking care of the existing highway system. A minimum of \$10 million per year has been dedicated to bridge preventive maintenance activities to slow the number of structures falling into the deficient category.



Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Number of deficient bridges on the state system (major & minor highways)

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Jay Bledsoe, Transportation System Analysis Engineer

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure tracks progress toward improving the condition of Missouri's bridges. The public has indicated the condition of Missouri's existing roadway system should be one of the state's highest priorities. MoDOT places a high priority on increasing the quality of bridges on the state system.

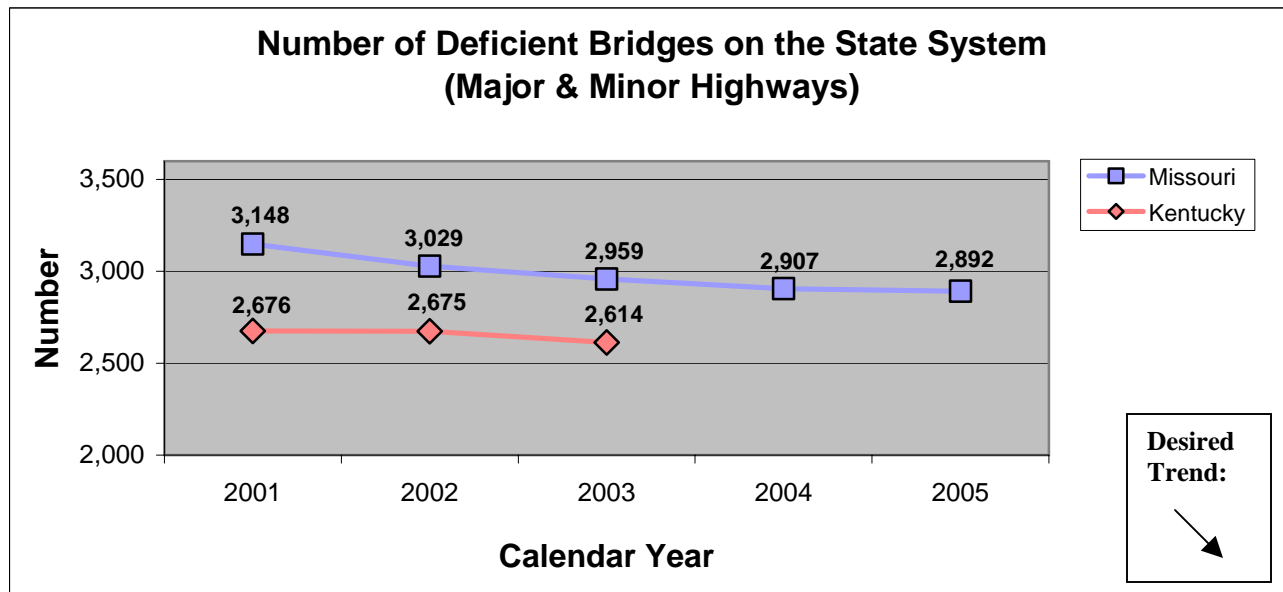
Measurement and Data Collection:

A bridge is considered deficient if it is either structurally deficient (SD) or functionally obsolete (FO) as defined using Federal Highway Administration criteria. A SD bridge is in poor condition or has insufficient load capacity when compared to modern design standards. A FO bridge has poor roadway alignment, or has clearance or width restrictions that no longer meet the usual criteria for the system it serves. MoDOT staff inspects all state-owned bridges. There are currently a total of 10,224 bridges on the state highway system.

Improvement Status:

Bridge conditions on Missouri highways have shown a moderate improvement in the last five years as a result of increasing funds directed to taking care of the existing highway system. Currently, 2,892 bridges are considered deficient on the state highway system. A minimum of \$10 million per year has recently been dedicated to preventive maintenance activities on bridges to slow the number of bridges falling into the deficient category.

Kentucky data for 2004 is currently being revised. Data will be adjusted when available.



* Source for Kentucky, "Better Bridges" November 2004 for data collected in calendar year 2003. The 2004 and 2005 data for Kentucky is not available at this time.

Smooth and Unrestricted Roads and Bridges

Number of miles completed through the Smooth Roads Initiative

Result Driver: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer

Measurement Driver: Machele Watkins, Transportation Planning Director

Purpose of the Measure:

This measure will determine how many centerline miles of roadway have been improved as a result of the Amendment 3 Smooth Roads Initiative (SRI). Improvements may consist of pavement, striping or pavement marking projects on Missouri's busiest roadways.

Measurement and Data Collection:

The first set of SRI projects was awarded in February 2005. Data collection on this measure began May 1, 2005, with the first reporting in the July 2005 Tracker. Data will be collected and reported on a statewide basis. All of the SRI projects were to be completed within three years. In January 2006, MoDOT accepted Governor Blunt's challenge to complete the SRI projects by December 2006, one year ahead of schedule.

Improvement Status:

Statewide, as of April 2006, 364 miles of SRI work have been completed. This is up from 282 miles completed in January 2006. All miles of SRI have been awarded.

